

(Start Belt #11A)

PRESIDENT: You had the Chair confused there for awhile as a matter of fact as to who had the floor, now Senator F. Lewis, are you through.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: I just have a couple of comments that I am going to make again, and Senator Keyes and I have talked about this several times. The thing that is not going to happen as far as I am concerned, we are not going to bottle that county up, to where they can not have qualified people to run for that job because that is extremely important up there and if we can pay the kind of money that we pay a lot of people for the office of county attorney certainly we are going to have to pay substantial amounts of money and we are going to have to treat them all alike. Deputies, County Attorneys, the whole bit.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler;

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, members of the legislature as one Lancaster County Senator, I guess that I would have to say that the picture Senator Simpson painted was not as rosy as I would about this question. I think that the fact that the county attorney can have an outside income has raised the question about the integrity of the office in the past. I can site an example in this county. Last year there were questions about the contributions of a chamber of commerce towards the campaign funds to defeat a charter amendment. There were citizens who tried to raise this issue with the county attorney. They felt that because it was rumored but never proved, but it was rumored that our county attorney was doing outside work for the chamber of commerce that he would be reluctant to prosecute this. I don't know if the rumor was true, but the fact that our county attorneys can have outside work because there is no requirement that they record who in fact that they do work for the amount of respect for the office and the confidence that the citizens have and the integrity of the chief prosecuting officer on the local level, has been diminished. I would just like to say that this sort of an amendment would increase the respect that citizens have for the law and for it being dealt with equally, I would oppose the motion to kill it.

PRESIDENT: Next is Senator Kelly, then Syas.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, a question of Senator Stromer. Senator Stromer, I'm looking on page 3 and reading the words whenever two or more contiguous counties agree by resolution to have a full time attorney each county shall pay an equal share of such attorney annual salaries and I need your interpretation of that.

SENATOR STROMER: Very simply Senator, if you would go on and read before and after that particular section that it is also provided in this bill that if there is a county or a number of counties that would wish to join together to make the minimum of 20,000 population which is referred to there, then they may jointly by resolution of their joint county boards have a full time county attorney with those contiguous counties.

SENATOR KELLY: Hamilton, Hall, and Howard go together. Would they each pay a third?